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2 OCT 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary, Technical Requirements Board

SUBJECT : TRB Annual Report

REFERENCE : Your Memorandum dated 20 September 1968

1. The Office of Research and Development is increasingly concerned over the establishment of R&D requirements throughout the Agency. We have spent considerably more time on this problem, particularly during the past year, dictated in part by the severe cutbacks and available resources.

2. The establishment of Clandestine Services R&D requirements presents us with three distinct but related problems. The first concerns the increased pressures to gear our R&D to short-term development or improvement of existing systems. Although this may have merit in some cases, it severely restricts funds available for making more fundamental improvements in collection systems which require a longer lead time but which could permit a giant step forward rather than small improvements in the state-of-the-art. Accordingly, we feel that the Clandestine Services must assist us in defending longer term development programs, recognizing that this will in some cases detract from more immediate development programs.

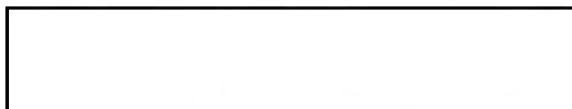
3. Clandestine Services R&D requirements may come to us through a variety of mechanisms including the TRB, TSD and operating staffs and divisions. Although these requirements are reasonably well coordinated before we undertake a substantial effort, we are not always certain that we have a full appreciation of the overall Clandestine Services priority attached to a given requirement. In some cases, this may lead us to undertake R&D which is clearly in areas of low priority.

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SUBJECT: TRB Annual Report

4. We have a concern that there are operational requirements which we might be able to fulfill which for some reason or another are not made known to us. Although we have a much closer relationship with the TRB and TSD than in the past, we have little contact with the operating divisions and staffs. Although there may be excellent operational and security reasons for this, it does tend to remove us from first-hand knowledge of the requirements. Similarly, it tends to restrict the flow of technical information from ORD to those who are the potential consumers. We must assume that the TRB and TSD are fully aware of these requirements and are transmitting the significant ones to us. There have been times over the last two or three years, however, when we have felt that this transfer of requirements has not occurred in enough detail or early enough for us to be of real service. To state this another way, we feel that we could better support the Clandestine Services if we had a clearer feeling for the way in which they would be operating three to five years from now, for example.

5. In summary, then, we hope to receive greater support from the Clandestine Services for longer range exploratory R&D as opposed to short-term engineering, to evolve a clearer statement of the relative priorities of Clandestine Services R&D requirements, and to expand the exchange of information between the technical officers of ORD and the officials from the operating offices within the Clandestine Services in order to increase the transfer of pertinent information.



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Robert M. Chapman
Director of Research and Development

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